



News for Immediate Release  
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**Two DWR Divers Die on Routine Inspection Mission**

SACRAMENTO -- Two Department of Water Resources (DWR) employees died this morning during a routine underwater mission at the Dos Amigos Pumping Plant in Merced County.

"Our deepest sympathies go out to the families of these two men," said DWR Director Lester Snow. "Our divers routinely perform hazardous duties in connection with State Water Project operations, but they are well-trained, highly-qualified individuals who approach their tasks with a 'safety first' attitude."

The certified and experienced divers were at the intakes of the pumping plant about 10 miles south of Los Banos in Merced County. When they failed to come up on schedule, a search was begun. Their bodies have been located and pulled from the water.

DWR officials are working with authorities to determine the cause of the accident. Names are being withheld pending notification of family.

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The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

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